

Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from New York, Mr. CROWLEY, for his bringing attention to an important program that deserves the support of this body. The importance of Science Technology Engineering and Math (or STEM) education has been recognized by this administration and members of Congress from both sides of the aisle. Investment in these fields will prepare our students for good paying jobs and strengthen our economy by ensuring that our workforce stays competitive in a globalized world. Entrepreneurs with specialties in these fields are creating exciting new start-ups and jobs while more established companies are being encouraged to reshore jobs in this country when our workers are better trained. In short the value of STEM education is universally understood.

Madam Chair, the gentleman's colloquy allows us the opportunity to demonstrate congressional intent to support STEM education, particularly in our Nation's Hispanic Serving Institutions. HSIs serve an important population and educate students of all backgrounds. The program directed the National Science Foundation to help create additional capacity for STEM education in these institutions of higher learning. The National Science Foundation directs investment in American innovation and is uniquely equipped to focus efforts on bringing more students into these important fields.

This amendment supports a worthy program that returns a value to our students and the economy that is well beyond the investment.

**RECOGNIZING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALPHA XI OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC., DALLAS, TEXAS**

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 85th Anniversary of the Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated—the first Greek letter sorority for African-American women. The Alpha Xi Omega Chapter was established in Dallas, Texas on June 6, 1929. Since its inception, its members have provided outstanding community service throughout the City of Dallas. They have displayed a constant commitment to serving those in need through varied volunteer activities—from tutoring children, raising money to fight cancer, increasing awareness to combat AIDS, supporting research for sickle cell anemia to feeding the hungry.

Through programs of service, they encourage young men and women to develop high standards of character and excellence in education. They support a myriad of other programs, including: health and social services for women and children and the development of art, cultural and educational groups. They understand the great price of liberty—the duty of each of us to give back freely. They understand that by investing their time, energy and talent, they strengthen the very fiber of our Nation.

While my colleagues and I draft education reform legislations, we cannot be on the ground in every community: staffing after-school programs, coordinating back-to-school supply drives or organizing domestic violence seminars. Our success as a nation is, in no small part, due to the leadership and passion of citizens who are helping people lead healthier and more purposeful lives—those who focus on student achievement to foster innovation and creativity. The Alpha Xi Omega Chapter has improved the social stature of Dallas' youth by cultivating and encouraging high scholastic and ethical standards. Because of their work, the next generation of leaders is energized to innovate and move the country forward.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a Member of this organization for more than 40 years, and I can say with great pride that the City of Dallas is a better place because of the dedicated and selfless service of the distinguished women of The Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Their unparalleled and unprecedented community involvement will impact the Dallas community for years to come. They epitomize the power of an engaged citizenry and reflect our nation's great tradition of service. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their service today in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**RECOGNITION OF THE 96TH ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLIC DAY IN AZERBAIJAN**

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 96th anniversary of Republic Day in Azerbaijan on May 28. Azerbaijan is a secular, modern, Muslim country, which practices broad religious tolerance. Established in May 28, 1918, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was the first republic in any majority-Muslim country. In 1920 Russia occupied Azerbaijan and several Azeris lost their lives fighting for their independence. After years of living under Soviet rule, Azerbaijan reclaimed its independence in 1991 following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Over the last twenty-three years, the Republic of Azerbaijan has strengthened its sovereignty and independence, and has developed into one of the fastest growing economies in the region. Azerbaijan is also a staunch ally and strategic partner of the United States in the decisively important Caspian region. As a valuable international ally, Azerbaijan provided aid to the United States directly following the devastating events of 9/11, assisting the United States on matters of international security.

Azerbaijan resides in one of the world's most dangerous neighborhoods, with Russia to the north and Iran to the south; however, the U.S. and Azerbaijan have developed a steadfast relationship through the opening of Caspian energy sources for development. Making significant contributions to the energy security of Europe, Turkey, and Israel, Azerbaijan has materialized as a fundamental player in global energy security.

Again, it is my pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the 96th

anniversary of the Republic Day, and to distinguish the many achievements of Azerbaijan along with the remarkably valuable partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan.

**CONGRATULATING THE HONOREES OF THE ELLSWORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER**

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Dinner. The Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business communities of the region, working hard to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the area and the state.

Each year, the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity, prosperity, and community service in Maine.

The 2014 award winners are: Merrill Enterprises, Top Drawer Award; Eleanor Jones, Citizen of the Year; Friends and Family, Customer Service Award; Shinbashi, Revitalization Award; and Z Photography, Chamber New Business of the Year.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and their incredible commitment to their communities and to the region, Maine is a better place in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce and the award recipients on their outstanding service and achievements.

**CONFERENCE REPORT WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT (H.R. 3080)**

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted in support of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (H.R. 3080) Conference Report. Unfortunately, I attended the funeral for a family member and missed the vote.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' mission, ensuring our nation's waterways have the resources to improve infrastructure and create jobs while providing flood protection and environmental restoration. Long overdue, the conference report to H.R. 3080 will ensure economic growth for years to come.

I'm pleased that the conference report includes my language addressing the threat of Asian carp in the Upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins and tributaries. The Fish and Wildlife Service in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service,